

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/765,695

Examiner

Ula C Ruddock

Applicant(s)

KEESE, FRANK M.

Art Unit

1771

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10/21/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3,4,6-25 and 27.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 18 January 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The Examiner has carefully considered Applicant's response filed October 21, 2004. All rejections have been overcome.

Election/Restrictions

2. Claims 1, 3, and 6-9 are directed to an allowable product. Pursuant to the procedures set forth in the Official Gazette notice dated March 26, 1996 (1184 O.G. 86), claims 10-25 and 27, previously withdrawn from consideration as a result of a restriction requirement, are now subject to being rejoined. Claims 10-25 and 27 are hereby rejoined and fully examined for patentability under 37 CFR 1.104.

Since all claims previously withdrawn from consideration under 37 CFR 1.142 have been rejoined, the restriction requirement made in the Office action mailed on November 21, 2002 and July 29, 2004, is hereby withdrawn.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Marcus Burch on January 6, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

**Cancel claims 2, 4, and 26

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**In claim 7, line 1, delete "2" and insert --1--

**In claim 21, delete the current status "(Withdrawn-Currently Amended)" and insert --(Currently Amended)--

**Amend claims 1, 20, 22, 23, 24, and 25 as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A fiber-reinforced flexible composite membrane, the membrane comprising:

two compositionally distinct opposing faces;

a reinforcement consisting of glass fibers;

a perfluoropolymer material coating on each side of the reinforcement, the perfluoropolymer in a balanced state having mechanical forces within the perfluoropolymer equal on each side of the reinforcement to prevent the membrane from curling; and

an elastomer disposed over the perfluoropolymer material on one side of the reinforcement, wherein the elastomer comprises a silicone rubber.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended) A belt comprising a fiber-reinforced flexible composite according to any one of claims [1-9] 1, 3, and 6-9.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended) A belt comprising:

two compositionally distinct opposing faces;

a first layer of perfluoropolymer material and a second layer of perfluoropolymer material;

a fibrous reinforcement intermediate the first and second layers of perfluoropolymer material; and

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an elastomer disposed over one of the first and second layers of perfluoropolymer material, wherein the elastomer comprises a silicone rubber;

wherein the first and second layers of perfluoropolymer material have a thickness sufficient to inhibit the belt from curling.

Claim 23. (Currently Amended) A fiber-reinforced flexible composite membrane having two compositionally distinct opposing faces, the membrane comprising:

a fibrous reinforcement',

a perfluoropolymer material coating on each side of the reinforcement, the perfluoropolymer in a balanced state having mechanical forces within the perfluoropolymer equal on each side of the reinforcement to prevent the membrane from curling; and

an exposed elastomer disposed over the perfluoropolymer material on one side of the reinforcement having a thickness of 2 to 50 mils, wherein the elastomer comprises a silicone rubber.

Claim 24. (Currently Amended) A fiber-reinforced flexible composite membrane having two compositionally distinct opposing faces, the membrane comprising:

a fibrous reinforcement;

a perfluoropolymer material coating on each side of the reinforcement, the perfluoropolymer in a balanced state having mechanical forces within the perfluoropolymer equal on each side of the reinforcement to prevent the membrane from curling; and

an elastomer disposed over the perfluoropolymer material on one side of the reinforcement wherein the weight ratio of the reinforcement to the perfluoropolymer coating

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is 50:50, wherein the elastomer comprises a silicone rubber.

Claim 25. (Currently) An apparatus for moving objects comprising:

a machine; and

a belt capable of being driven by the machine;

wherein the belt comprises:

a first layer of perfluoropolymer material and a second layer of perfluoropolymer material;

a fibrous reinforcement intermediate the first and second layers of perfluoropolymer material; and

an elastomer disposed over one of the first and second layers of perfluoropolymer material and having a thickness of 2 to 50 mils, wherein the elastomer comprises a silicone rubber;

wherein the first and second layers of perfluoropolymer material have a thickness sufficient to inhibit the belt from curling.

Reasons for Allowance

4. Claims 1, 3, 6-25, and 27 are allowed.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the rejections have been overcome by the present amendment and Applicant's response.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ula C Ruddock whose telephone number is 571-272-1481. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrel H. Morris can be reached on 571-272-1478. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

UCR *UCR*

Ula Ruddock
ULA RUDDOCK
PRIMARY EXAMINER